

**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders #1, July 1, 2017

“The Future Is Now”

Greetings to my fellow comrades! I hope you are enjoying a great summer. My thanks to everyone for your cooperation and support this past year. It was rewarding being your Senior Vice Commander and Programs Chairman.

I would like to thank everyone for their support in me, as I became your State Commander. I will do my best to live up to your expectations.

We had a very successful State Convention. My thanks go out to those members of Post 2038, whose timeless efforts lead to the success.

The following are the First General Orders.

1. Having been duly elected and installed as Commander of the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby take command. All previous State appointments are canceled.
2. All Official communications to the State Commander shall be sent to: Rick Williamson 214 N Wicker Canton SD 57013
3. All Communications to the State Headquarters, to the State Adjutant or the State Quartermaster shall be sent to: 3601 South Minnesota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.
4. **Post Commanders:** General Orders will be read at your meetings or printed and passed out, then filed for future use. General Orders will also be posted on the SD VFW Web site – [VFW General Orders](#).
5. Elected Officers for the State of South Dakota, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for the year 2017/2018, were elected and installed at the annual convention held at Pierre on June 22 to June 25, and all officers appointed, are expected to carry out the duties of their respective offices to the best of their abilities. National and State By-Laws outline the duties of the offices.
6. Section 222, Paragraph D, National By-Laws, requires that each Post register at least one delegate for the National Convention. If your Post has not registered one delegate, please send a name and \$25.00. Make check payable to Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, VFW National Headquarters, Attn: Quartermaster General, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.
7. It is recommended that all who plan to attend the National Convention in New Orleans LA, register in advance. Cost for a Post is \$25.00 and all additional members are \$10.00. Make checks payable to Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and mail to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111.
8. The attention of all Post Commanders is directed to Section 222. paragraph C of the National By-Laws. Delegates will not be recognized at the National Convention unless they personally register with the National Credentials Committee.
9. All District and Post Commanders are asked to select a member or officer to be the Chairperson of VOD, Patriots Pen, Teachers Awards, Buddy Poppy, Veterans & Military Support, Membership, Law Enforcement, Firefighter, and EMT citations and Scouting. Also appoint a member to be the Post Service Officer, and forward the names of these Chairpersons to the State Headquarters.
10. All District Commanders, District Membership Chairpersons, Post Commanders, and Post Membership Chairpersons, please work to increase your District and Post membership so that you can qualify for the 2017/2018 All-State Team of District and Post Commanders.

11. All Post Commanders are asked to appoint a Chairperson for the observance of Veterans Day 2017. **THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY.**

12. All Posts: Report any and all [Community Service](#) projects to State Judge Advocate, Cody Mangold 1101 Main Street Tyndall SD 57066, Phone 605-770-1030, email: cody.mangold@hotmail.com.

13. All State, District and Post Officers as well as all VFW members are asked to wear the official VFW cap to all meetings and functions held in their communities.

14. The Fall Council of Administration, Commander and Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming will be held at Chamberlain, SD, on October 6, 7, and 8, 2017. [Registration information](#) will be available on the website this month.

15. The State Convention will be held June 11 - 14, 2018 at Sioux Falls, with Post 628 & 3164 (Canton) and Auxiliary as the host Post.

16. Post Homes and Clubroom facilities should be known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and only the abbreviation in lieu thereof is VFW. The use of names such as VFW Club, and VETS Club, etc., lowers the dignity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

17. National and State Constitutions and By-Laws prohibit the use of the Veterans of Foreign Wars name by private business and commercial businesses operating under the name of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is **prohibited**. Posts so operating are hereby directed to take corrective measures to eliminate such practice within 30 days.

18. **The 2018 Membership year officially began July 1, 2017.** All Districts and Posts are asked to start their kickoff immediately.

19. [Membership books](#) for the year 2017 – 2018 are on the VFW Website.

20. Under the Direct Dues Program, Posts will send payment direct to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

21. To report continuous, new, reinstated, continuous transfer or non-paying transfers, the DP form will be used or done by direct membership.

22. Remember that when reporting members to National Headquarters, you must fill out the **VFW Post Direct Dues Transmittal Summary Form**. This form must be used for transmitting dues from Posts and must be accompanied by Part 4 and/or Part 3 of the **Renewal Form (DD)** and/or Life Membership applications. You must separate the members as Continuous, New and Reinstated and Life Members. Send to National dues of \$21.50 plus Department dues of \$8.00 for annual members for a total of \$29.50.

23. Check the web site for dates and locations of the [2017 State Baseball Tournaments](#).

Official:

By Order Of:

Darwin Tolzin

Darwin Tolzin, Adjutant
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Rick Williamson

Rick Williamson, Commander
Department of South Dakota
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Rick L Williamson
Commander
July General Orders

Thank you to everyone for your support in the past, I cherish the friendships that we have created, and more so I hope you will continue to assist and support me as your commander for the ensuing year. I would like to congratulate Dennis for his very successful year, and personally thank you for handing this department over in great order to me. I will do the best I can to do what is right for our members and to hand this department over to my predecessor in the same shape or better, if possible. Our department has had many accomplishments in the past year, many changes along the way have happened. I look forward to representing this department in the best way that I can. I have many goals for this year, however I think the most important is to never settle for less than success. We must continue to work together for what is best for our veterans, which means working very closely or hand in hand with our Auxiliary. I have no doubt that Carrie and I will work together very well, and I would ask that every post and district please do the same. The Auxiliary is very key to our success, and we are just as important to theirs.

As I took the oath to become your 88th Commander of this great Department on July 25, 2017 it was a huge honor, very humbling, and emotional for me. As the reality of the installation set in, my mind was thinking of Past Commanders, mentors and friends who have encouraged me along the way. I have some very big shoes to fill, a tremendous amount of people who I can't let down, and an obligation to the members of our VFW and veterans of this state to uphold. I can only hope that I can be the leader you deserve, a mentor to officers you have elected to surround me, and lead this Department into the future. I can't promise you that I will do all of this perfectly, but I can promise you I will always do what is best for our department. You deserve the best and I will give you my best.

We owe a great big THANK YOU to Pierre Post #2038 and their Auxiliary for the very great convention they hosted. You did your Commander and President proud, you made the start of my year awesome.

The convention is now over so it's time to get to work, get a plan in place for membership and submit your membership plan to Sean. It's never too early, nor too late, to recruit a new member so start today. Get the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen info out to your teachers, give them time to work it into their lesson plans. All the info is updated on the website for you already. Let our team know if there is anything we can do to help you, we are here for you. God Speed

Phone: 605-321-4935
Email: rick@johnsonfeedinc.com

Yours in Comradeship,
Rick L. Williamson

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Dakota
State Sr. Vice Commander Danny Frisby-Griffin General Orders 6/17

Comrades,

Thank you for your support and electing me to the position of Senior Vice Commander of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Convention in Pierre.

For those of you that don't know me or my credentials, here is a brief summary: I'm an upper Midwest native, graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science. I have a Masters degree from Webster University in Management and Human Resources and "all but dissertation" complete on my Political Science Doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I retired after 26 years active duty from the USAF as a Colonel working for NORAD-NORTHCOM at USSTRATCOM in Omaha. I've held command positions from squadron down and multiple division chief positions. I qualified to be a member of the VFW with my combat sorties during Desert Shield. I've also worked as a government contractor and was a Program Manager for Lockheed Martin where I managed a \$230M contract and was responsible for over 125 personnel. My family moved to Madison SD (post #2638) when my daughter went to college at DSU and took her parents. I'm currently CEO of a drone company, Saunter Raven, LLC, providing aerial intelligence to our customers. I volunteer for American Diabetes Association (ADA), Children and Adults with ADHD (CHADD), Madison Lakes Cycling as well as substitute teach and coach at Madison High School.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you to "Providing Top Cover to those who served." I've updated all the forms on the website (<http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms>) and if you have problems with them, drop me a note at the email below explaining exactly what happened. That means the Loyalty Day and Memorial Day Report Forms are current and ready for you to fill in and send to me! To get maximum points for judging, I need to receive them by December 31...so why wait!

VFW Baseball Regions and State Tournaments will be in full swing from the beginning of July to the first week in August with the conclusion of our VFW Varsity (16U) Tournament. You can get the latest information at the VFW Baseball website (<http://www.sdvfwbaseball.com/>).

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

State SR Vice Commander, Danny "Wham-O" Frisby-Griffin
418 NE 5th St, Madison SD 57042
Cell: 402-332-7423 Email: danny.frisby-griffin@outlook.com

Jr. Vice Commander Sean Johnson **General Orders #1**

As we start Commander Rick Williamson's year we are leaving a great year behind us. As your membership Chairman you should be proud of being 100% last year, and we will be striving for the same this year. It should be easier since we have attained it once. As soon as we renew these folks and get some new ones along the way we are right back in the hunt again. I am very excited and you will be hearing from me a lot this year.

Please make sure that I have your Post Membership Plans by October 31 for extra points And December 31 for regular points but please the sooner the better as we need to get going ASAP. We need to keep our numbers up I will strive to help you in any way possible Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sean Johnson
Jr. Vice Commander
Department South Dakota
1005 N. Main Street
Aberdeen SD 57401

605-228-1636

Judge Advocate

Comrades,

I want to thank you all for the support to become the 2017-2018 Department Judge Advocate. I look forward to working with the amazing team. I would also like to thank Past Department Commander Dennis, and Past Auxiliary President Karen Sharp on a great State Convention. The new community service reports will be coming out soon on the South Dakota VFW website. The new address for the community service report is 1101 Main St. Tyndall, SD 57066. You can also e-mail it to me at cody.mangold@hotmail.com. I would like to thank you all for entrusting me with this prestigious position and look forward to representing you all well.

Yours in Comradeship,
Cody Mangold, Judge Advocate

Surgeon

Comrades,

Thank you for your support and electing me to the position of State Surgeon of the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars at the Convention in Pierre. I am excited for the coming year and I look forward to working with all of you.

To keep you and your loved ones safe, please remember to dispose of unwanted/unneeded medications from your home. The VA will dispose any expired or unwanted prescriptions from your home so you or your children/grandchildren can reduce the chance of accidentally taking them. Please do not flush unwanted drugs down the toilet or drains or throw them away in the trash. This can harm our water supply and wildlife. Your VA now has envelopes that you can use to mail your unwanted medications for disposal that is safe for the environment. These envelopes are free and do not require postage. If you have questions, please ask your VA pharmacist how to safely dispose of your medications.

All updated reports are available on the state website at <http://www.sdvfw.org/custom/vfw-forms> As a reminder, quarterly reports are due: **Jul 31, Oct 31, Jan 31 and Apr 30th**. Please mark your calendars now and let's work together to bring up or state quarterly percentage rates!

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

State Surgeon, Barb McKean

504 S Wallace St Parkston, SD 57366

C: 605-630-0771; Email: mckean4@live.com

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